

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 030162

51

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030162

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING: AIRCRAFT

SURVIVABILITY STUDIES

REFS: A. USNATO 710; B. USNATO 229; C. USNATO 146 (NOTAL);

D. EWG BASIC ISSUES FUTURE PROGRAMME OF WORK, AC/281-

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 030162

BONN FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL BOWMAN

1. THE US IS WILLING TO MEET WITH UK, FRG AND SHAPE TECHNICAL CENTER (STC) EXPERTS TO DISCUSS APPROACHES TO STUDY OF THE AIRCRAFT PROTECTION QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFS A, B AND C. EARLY MARCH AT NATO HEADQUARTERS SHOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE SORT OF METHODOLOGICAL DISCUSSIONS WE ENVISAGE.

2. OUR READING OF REF D SUGGESTS THAT THE UK, WITH US ASSISTANCE, WOULD STUDY THE NEED FOR A SHELTER PROGRAM AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES IN THE UK. SHAPE WOULD STUDY THE DESIRABILITY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS OF USING INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS TO SHELTER 100 PERCENT OF ASSIGNED/EARMARKED AND AUGMENTATION FORCES ON THE CONTINENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE UK (DOAE) WILL PUBLISH THIS MONTH A STUDY OF AIR DEFENSE THAT ADDRESSES ACTIVE AND PASSIVE AIRCRAFT PROTECTION MEASURES. ALSO THE STC HAS SUBMITTED TO SHAPE AN

ANALYSIS ENTITLED OFFENSIVE CONVENTIONAL AIR OPERATIONS (STC OPS/72/7, 10 JANUARY 1974) WHICH ASSESSES THE EFFECTS OF CONTINENTAL SHELTERS AMONG OTHER THINGS. FINALLY THE MBFR WORKING GROUP SUB-GROUP TACTICAL AIR'S STUDY, YET TO BE RELEASED BECAUSE OF SOME SHAPE OBJECTIONS, IS REPORTEDLY A GOOD SOURCE FOR COMPARING THE EFFICACY OF AIR DEFENSE, SHELTERS AND DISPERSAL. THIS STUDY MAY BE A GOOD DEPARTURE FOR FUTURE EFFORTS.

3. WE DO NOT HAVE A CURRENT, COMPREHENSIVE STUDY THAT INTEGRATES SUCH FACTORS AS AIR DEFENSE, DISPERSAL, SHELTER LEVELS AND THREAT TO ARRIVE AT A COST-EFFECTIVE MIX OF ACTIVE AND PASSIVE MEASURES. THE LAST SUCH DOD STUDY, TAB VEE, PERFORMED IN 1964/1965, WAS A MASSIVE EFFORT, AND IT ADDRESSED ONLY MEASURES FOR US AIRCRAFT IN EUROPE. THIS STUDY WAS RELEASED TO NATO IN 1966.

4. THE US IS RELUCTANT TO COMMIT EXTENSIVE ANALYTICAL RESOURCES TO ANOTHER STUDY OF A FORCE IMPROVEMENT MEASURE WHICH WE ARE ALREADY CONVINCED IS NECESSARY ON THE BASIS OF OUR PREVIOUS ANALYSES. FURTHERMORE, OUR ANALYSTS ARE PRESENTLY COMMITTED TO OTHER PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 030162

NATO POLICY AND PRIORITIES: IN AIR DEFENSE, STRATEGIC MOBILITY, MUNITIONS MIXES AND THE MILITARY LESSONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAR. A NEW AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY STUDY WOULD REQUIRE A YEAR TO COMPLETE AND ANY SUCH US STUDY WOULD BE HANDICAPPED BY THE LACK OF DATA ON ALL ALLIED FORCE PROGRAMS AND EQUIPMENT PERFORMANCE RELATING TO THE TOTAL AIRCRAFT PROTECTION PROBLEM. WE ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST OTHER NATIONS OR SHAPE IN PERFORMING AIRCRAFT PRO-

TECTION STUDIES.

5. REQUEST MISSION ADVISE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING OF ANALYSTS AND ANY FURTHER AIRCRAFT PROTECTION QUESTIONS THAT ARISE. WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR CANVASS OF DOD AND CONTRACTOR STUDIES WHICH ILLUMINATE ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM.

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